

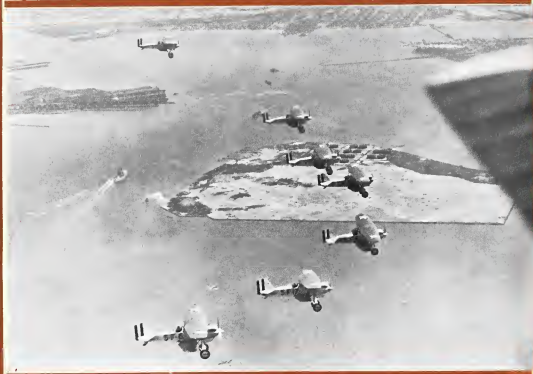
AVIATION

The Oldest American Aeronautical Magazine

JULY 18, 1927

Issued Weekly

PRICE 15 CENTS



A Formation of Curtiss "Hawks" of the Marine Corps

VOLUME
XXIII

SPECIAL FEATURES

NUMBER
3

GERMAN AIR TRANSPORT
TAIL SPINS AND FLAT SPINS
THE ALL METAL DORNIER SUPERWAL

AVIATION PUBLISHING CORPORATION

Editorial and Business Offices
250 WEST 57 STREET, NEW YORK

Publication Office
HIGHLAND, N. Y.

Entered as Second-Class Matter, Nov. 22, 1920, at the Post Office, at Highland, N. Y.,
under Act of March 3, 1879.

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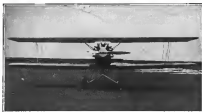
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AVIATION PUBLISHING CORP.
Business and Editorial Office—250 W. 57TH ST., NEW YORK

Exec. D. C. Goss
President and Editor

Cable Address—AEROSG

Publishing Office—HIGHLAND, N. Y.

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Publisher

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Business Manager

L. D. Wessner
Treasurer

Vol. XXIII

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Subscription price: Four dollars per year. Single copies, 15 cents. Foreign orders include postage. All orders must be accompanied by payment.

Second class postage. Postage paid at New York, N. Y., and at other mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to AVIATION, P. O. Box 100, New York, N. Y.

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With the Editor

In answer to recent criticisms of formation flying and landing in formation, articles of the Army Air Corps advanced the arguments that if Army Air Corps units are to be equipped for war purposes, aerial tactics must be vigorously pursued in peace time, and that formation flying and landing in formation is a fundamental of military flying. In short—the Army Air Corps is of the firm belief that in time of peace one should prepare for war. And in this respect it would appear that the Army Air Corps is 100 per cent correct.

If in time of peace every effort is being constantly devoted to a continued improvement in the design and construction of war airplanes, it is only logical that an equal amount of effort should be devoted to their most effective operation, so that in the event of war a maximum of Army Air Corps performance can not only be expected, but delivered.

True, in the late war, individual aerial work predominated, but it was not so much a matter of choice as it was necessity. The lack of training the pilots of enemy aircraft and cooperation with the land forces did not allow sufficient time for the conducting of formation flying operations. However, in the coming months an increased amount of formation flying was being accomplished and the military forces of the official war records show the proof of its value.

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Unusual? Yes, perhaps. But not so unusual after all when it is remembered that over ninety per cent of the aircraft



Lieutenant Wilford and Commander Selous off on their great flight from San Francisco to Hawaii.



Commander Rod's 'America' at Roosevelt Field, Long Island before its enroute to San Francisco.

plywood used is Haskelite. It is the only material meeting the strict Navy Grade A specifications for waterproof plywood.

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HASKELITE



Vol. XXIII

JULY 18, 1927

No. 5

Crashing of the "Jenny"

AFTER HANING served our country effectively in two years, the JN4 type of airplane will officially pass out of the picture as a military plane on September 1. The announcement has been made by the Secretary of War that on that date all JN4 planes in the Army will be retired and scrapped, and no more of this type of plane will be used. This program's stop right will have been taken some time ago in regard to most of the war time planes, to encourage further developments in airplane design and building, as well as to contribute to greater safety in flying by substituting for the old war stock, much of it hard driven over long years, single built equipment.

The record of the JN4 is an honorable one and the affection for it by the large army of pilots and former pilots will live on. That this type of plane—a creation of the infant days of aviation—has lasted through a period of ten years, is a splendid tribute to its design and construction. Had it not served its purpose. Aviation has progressed and the beloved "Jenny," like all mechanical contrivances, must give a way to the newer requirements that mark progress.

It will be some years, however, before the last "Jenny" disappears in the United States. There is presently a large field in the country that has not in daily use one or more of these planes. But gradually their numbers will diminish and when the last Jenny wages its way across the sky the old design will have its head and no, "There now a day."

Seaplane Anchorages

THE suggestion that a larger canal in throughout the country for more landing fields, the United States Navy has lately made an important contribution.

The general public thinks of air terminal facilities only in the terms of fields on land, little realizing the need of special study of anchorage necessary for location of good anchorages for seaplanes. While it is true a seaplane can set down and take off on any water deep enough and spacious enough to moor or lie, there is more involved for safe anchorage than room and depth. There must be accurate information as to the character of the bottom for safe landing, the nature of the current and tides, direction of prevailing winds and possible harbor obstructions, as well as facilities for floating lifting apparatus and communications.

In its wonderful series called *Naval Air Pilot*, published by the Hydrographic Office at Washington under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, the Navy

Department has secured this general information. The set of *Air Pilot*, to date, comprises 80 pocket size charts in color, each chart containing the seaplane anchorage facilities of a given locality. These charts cover the territory from East Port, Mo., to Key West, Fla., and furnish an ample guide for laying out a seaplane course along the entire Atlantic Coast line.

With the constant work of the Department of Commerce in charting, with much detail, our terminal and intermediate land fields, and with the Navy, through its Naval Air Pilot, making a good start towards the charting of our seaplane anchorages, American air pilots are receiving strong and practical support from the federal government in respect to an intelligent completion of our land and sea plane terminals.

Aerial Advertising

ADVERTISING HAS become a very complicated business which is being handled more and more by specialists. As a result of long experience and observation these specialists have developed a science of advertising and they know just what kind of advertising medium gets the best results for a given kind of action. Knowing these things with such certainty the advertising agencies which handle the advertising of large firms are apt to look at any new medium with distrust and then apply especially to the advertising which is done by airplanes.

There are many forms of aerial advertising. The simple dropping of pamphlets was one of the first methods devised and is still used, in towns where it is not prohibited. Signwriting, hand speaking, illuminated signs and many other devices have been tried. To the flying enthusiast there are wonderful methods of advertising but to the professional advertiser was they are minor stunts because they are not followed up and do not permanently impress the public with the name of the product advertised.

Both the firm and the advertiser seek are to secure exact sight and undoubtedly aerial advertising has been greatly retarded because the flyer does not understand the fundamentals of advertising and because the advertiser does not realize the nature of successful aerial attention which is obtained by aerial advertising. The solution seems to lie in the cooperation by some firm of aerial advertising, much as some fine specialists in outdoor advertising or in direct mail advertising. Here is an opportunity for some firm to start in and develop a business which has real possibilities of growth and permanence.

The All Metal Dornier Superwal

Claimed to be World's Largest Flying Boat and is Powered With Two Rolls Royce 650 Hp. Engines

THE DORNIER WERKSTÄTTEN (Dornier-Works, Building-Constructors Co.) at Friedrichshafen, Germany, claim to have constructed the world's largest flying boat, the Dornier Superwal. It resembles the Dornier Wal in that it is of all metal construction having a large wing above the hull and a small wing stub on each side of the tail. It is powered by two Rolls Royce 650 hp. engines arranged in tandem above the upper wing. The Superwal is much larger than the Wal, weighing close to ten tons or fifty per cent more. At Lake Constance, Germany, it successfully completed the first test flight carrying twenty-five people. While the Wal is the holder of many records, the possession of the Superwal is such that it bids fair to replace the predecessor. It is a Dornier Wal that Cyp. Company is preparing for his westward hop across the Atlantic.

Built Entirely of Metal

A characteristic feature of all Dornier flying boats is the short wing stub or fin at each side of the hull. At the center of gravity is rather high, the stubs are necessary to provide lateral stability on the water. These water stabilizing stubs are of solid construction giving lift while in flight, besides obviating the necessity of wing tip floats when on the surface. The strength of these stubs is such that winds may be without to them to facilitate moving the plane over land. The Superwal is built entirely of metal. All vital parts are made of alloy steel. The hull as well as parts of the wing that are subject to heavy strains are made of duralumin. For internal bracing, pressed steel cord is used throughout in contrasted with steel tubing which has proved much lighter in this country. Dornier practice has been to have the wing and hull covering over the stresses rather than the internal structure. This covering is usually of flat duralumin riveted to a bulk up frame work with external stiffeners fastened in the covering parallel to the flying direction.

Hull is Well Streamlined

The hull, which contains the main is well streamlined. It is very much so that of the Wal except that the bow is sharper. While not as efficient aerodynamically, a better performance on the surface is thus attained. The hull is built up of so many flat surfaces as possible to facilitate construction, the cross-section of any point being about a rectangle. Great care was taken to eliminate as much as possible concavities in the hull, thus preventing an undesirable eddy.

Following the European practice the hull is almost flat on



The Dornier Superwal on flight

the bottom. The slight V at the bow is reduced until the bottom is flat at the first step. The step is so constructed that it is deeper at the keel than at the chines. The rear step, it is may be called such, is of wedge shape. It is a protrusion on the hull extending from the first step backward. Its bottom surface, gradually increasing in depth at the keel from a flat surface at the first step until there is a slight V at the end, which might be called the second step. This surface does not extend the full width of the hull. It also rises if it begins to a point giving it a streamline form. This rear step greatly aids maneuvering on the surface, as possibly in a cross wind.

Both the hull and water stabilizing stubs are divided into water tight compartments with bulkheads arranged in both



Front view of the all-metal Dornier Superwal.

a manner that the compartments are easily accessible for inspection or repair. The arrangement of pilot, radio, passenger and freight compartments depends on the service for which the plane is to be used. At present the Superwal is fitted for commercial purposes.

Below the engine mount and close to the center of gravity is a compartment and as a tank room in which 800 gal. of gasoline are stored. It is natural that the other varying loads should be placed close to the center of gravity. For that reason the passengers are provided with two cabins, the forward one housing thirteen passengers in front of the tank room, and the rear passenger cabin housing eight. Luggage and freight is stored in a space in the hull behind the rear cabin. The main entrance to the plane is behind the pilot's cockpit at the bow in front of the forward passenger cabin. Adjoining the cockpit are the radio compartment and lavatory. There is an emergency exit in the rear of the plane where the rear passenger cabin.

Passenger Comfort Provided

Every possible measure has been taken to provide for the comfort and convenience of the passengers. The Superwal is equipped and furnished in luxurious style. A fine unobstructed view for the passengers is made possible by means of large plate glass windows. The windows of the pilot's cockpit to the engine is more than compensated for by the



The hull of the Superwal is the Dornier three at Friedrichshafen, cockpit view obtained in this plane a cockpit close to the engine would make navigation very difficult.

There is a passenger compartment behind the tank compartment and the engine. The forward ends of the passenger compartment the riding positions while the main portion is provided with slacker. The air passes through the radiator, across the passengerway and out through the slacker. By connecting this passengerway to the passenger cabin a very efficient heating system results.

The engines, two Rolls Royce 650 hp., are arranged in tandem above the wing. At the engine mount was designed with a large fifty-fifty engine up to 1,000 hp. can be used. The tandem arrangement has been the type of a great deal of discussion. Both engines being combined in one specific reduces the drag considerably. The central arrangement enables one to maintain flight in one engine with out having to take on any landing longer by means of one motor.

The objects to having one propeller in the direction of the other and to having the two propellers turning in opposite directions has been noted. Extensive tests have been made by the Dornier Company at Sures, Germany. They

found, using two 245 hp. Maybach engines in tandem on a test stand, that there was a power loss of some per cent. It is claimed that the resulting losses are considerably less in flight and that the advantages of the tandem arrangement more than compensate this loss.

A non-stationary wing construction is said. The supporting struts connect the mid-point of the non-stationary of the main wing and the mid-point of the water stabilizing stub. The wings are built in three separate parts, the leading edge,



A frame for the hull of the Dornier Superwal.

mid-section and trailing edge. The mid-section contains of two steel spars, with the secondary cross bracing, covered with duralumin sheeting. The leading edge is covered with fabric. Any one duralumin sheet can be removed without disturbing any other sheet, thus facilitating inspection and repair. The internal structure of the wings is such that they can be covered entirely with fabric, increasing the total load.

The tail surfaces are high above the water. Both the water stabilizing and the two spar construction, the stabilizer being



The internal structure of the Superwal wing

extremely broad. The rudder is conventional while the stabilizer are balanced by an auxiliary surface. All the tail surfaces except the fin are fabric covered.

This great flying boat is equipped for extraordinary service. Its non-stationary combined with its excellent performance and it for use under the most adverse conditions. As a military plane the possibilities are again as great, giving a very dangerous offensive weapon.

Equipped with two Rolls Royce 650 hp. engines the power

German Air Transport

By LESTER D. GARDNER

This series of articles on German Air Transport is the result of a 1926 study by Walter Brundage over the subject as a result of the Deutsche Luftfahrt Gesellschaft's (DLG) 10th annual report on the state of the German aviation industry. The Deutsche Luftfahrt Gesellschaft is the 10th year of its existence.

ARTICLE ONE

IN CONSIDERING the place of Germany in the world of transportation since the war, there developed a new and, the permanent and ever expanding civil air transport, the development of transport types of airplanes, and the dogged determination to continue, even under the most severe restrictions, the building of the Zeppelin type of airship. The particular reason for this unique condition may be found in the conditions placed on Germany after the Armistice.

German air transport was hard hit by the London ultimatum of May 1921. The speed of German airplanes was limited to 140 m.p.h., the ceiling to 13,125 ft and the maximum load to 1,225 lb. The 1920 by transport plane designed by Heinkel and being built in the Zeppelin works had to be destroyed. The larger plane designed by Prof. Junkers could not be built and other limitations were placed on civil air transport that forced Germany to adopt a policy which has placed her far in the lead of all other countries in the air transport field. Deprived in the interim of any military or naval aircraft, it was natural that the country that had made such valuable contributions to the science of aeronautics should seek an outlet for its excess in the field. These things could be done. An aircraft industry could be kept alive. Airports of the most modern type could be erected. Types of air transport airplanes could be produced. All of these would keep an unimpaired personnel at work and profitable work the restrictions could be lifted. This satisfaction occurred in May 1920, due largely to the assistance

as well as the advantages of reciprocal arrangements for flying over Germany by airplanes of other countries, which immediately permitted Germany aircraft to fly lawless lines in Germany. Without giving all the details of the original restrictions and the recent modifications, it may be said possibly that Germany is now permitted to develop its Civil Aviation with only the limitation that the aircraft does not over transport lines will not be acceptable of use for military purposes.

This point was made particularly emphatic during a talk with Minister Brundage, Director of the Air Traffic Department of the German Ministry of Communications. Minister Brundage had a distinguished war record, having commanded many of the German aircraft squadrons that fought successfully England and France. He received the highest honors for his war service. He was wounded many times in action, resulting in the amputation of his left leg. Since 1921 he has been the directing hand of the only authority in Germany which deals with aerial matters (Luftverkehrsministerium). It was Herr Brundage who conceived the plan of orders with assistance of the wartime aircraft industry so that they would not lose connection with postwar development. He directed the reorganization of German air transport personnel in 1920 and has been a factor in the efforts made by Germany to have the prohibition of 1921 removed. When seen in his office, he expressed it as the writer's travels only six days in Germany we had seen any evidence of a military development. As the aircraft was necessary in the interim, Minister Brundage took care to emphasize the necessity of purpose of these is charge of German Air Transport to develop air traffic along commercial lines exclusively. While other countries of Europe were compelled to accept large sums for military and naval aviation, and



Looking down on the Dornier-Doppele, the Junkers, and the Dornier-Doppele, the first of Berlin.

In addition given subsidies to end aviation, Germany, having neither army nor navy to support, could concentrate on civil aviation. The natural result has been that the aircraft produced in Germany was not designed with an eye to possible use as war. The German construction was concerned only with the production of passenger airplanes having a high payload, convenience for passengers and efficient commercial operation.

First Air Transport Used During the War

Germany's geographical location makes it practically the hub of European air transport. Until the airplane of other countries could fly over Germany, the expansion of international air traffic lines was very difficult, if not impossible. The first German air transport was used to carry messages during the war. Military messages and mail were sent from Berlin to Brussels and Cologne and from Riga and Kovno as far as Kiev and Scherzegg. The Deutsche Luftverkehr was organized in 1917. Its air transport line from Berlin to Weimar was opened February 4, 1918, and carried important correspondence to the National Meeting. Many small air transport companies were organized but no indication of an organized transport system even into existence until 1920. The all-weather planes had been introduced and it is interesting to note that the whole type Junkers' airplane which was given Patent No. 1 is still in regular service.

In 1919, the International Air Traffic Association was organized at the Hague and today this group formulates the rules for the operation of the international service, subject to the local regulations of all countries.

One of the many air transport developments which of course could not operate successfully without permanent subsidy, two important organizations developed. Early in 1920, the German Air Line was formed out of many smaller companies. At about the same time the Junkers-Luftverkehr was started. From 1920 until 1925 there five companies developed and air traffic in Germany with assistance from the Govern-

ment over an amazing network of air lines. In cooperation with the International Air Traffic Association, commercial lines were made with foreign air transport companies so that through services could be maintained with the expense of Germany.

The Air Line had only a transport enterprise. It was not itself interested in the construction of aircraft and it was not bound down to any one mode of plane. Its business was to employ, on its transport lines, the best German airplane that could be constructed within the limits of the Allied restrictions, and it could take its choice from the products of the whole German aircraft industry. It ran a number of routes in Germany in connection with other lines both abroad and with provincial lines in Germany. The guiding principle was expansion on a sort of post system. In this way it ran the German section of the international line, London-Berlin-Amsterdam-Berlin-Munich, in friendly cooperation with Imperial Airways, Limited, the Dutch Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij, and (though here the connection was closer) the "Deutsche" (Deutsche-Deutsche Luftverkehrsgesellschaft).

Junkers Allied to Junkers Markets

The Junkers concern, on the other hand, was not interested only in air transport. If anything, it was more interested in the construction of the Junkers aircraft. The Junkers air transport company was the offspring of the airplane company, and the whole of the system it controlled was built up around this company. Its business was to provide markets for Junkers aircraft, quite as much as, if not more than, to develop national and international air traffic. It was a sort of service line business. The system it extended beyond the frontier of Germany, and, by the middle of 1924, an attempt was made to inaugurate all its lines under the title "Europa-Union," with a capital of \$2,500,000. The European Union included air lines in Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Estonia, as well as in Germany. All



Walter Brundage, Director of the Air Traffic Department of the German Ministry of Communications.



Major Martin Wronsky



Otto Merkl



Dr. Edward Misch

The three founding heads of the Deutsche Luft Hansa air system.

of them had either been founded under the influence of the Junkers concern or had been drawn into its orbit under arrangements which left that influence predominant. Their airplanes came from the Junkers company; their technical development was carried out and their personnel trained by Junkers experts. The whole of the Europa-Verkehr was bound to use only Junkers aircraft, and the Junkers company was to be its administrative center. The system also enabled the Allied restrictions to be avoided to some extent, under foreign flags. The growth of this organization began to arouse some suspicion in Europe. It began to look like a great air transport monopoly in Central and Northern Europe.

The tactics of subsidizing two rival companies proved to be economically unwise, and the German State, which had

a good deal at stake, as it subsidized the Junkers transport system as well as the rival concern, saw its opportunity in being about an amalgamation which would cut down expenses, increase efficiency, and definitely diversify construction and transport. The Aero-Lloyd had long been in favor of combination in the sphere of transport alone.

After some months of negotiation, the amalgamation was concluded and the Deutsche Luft Hansa was organized on



Interior of Junkers transport aircraft shows passenger plane.

January 6, 1930. The new company was headed by three men who had been engaged in the direction of the Aero-Lloyd and Deutsche air transport. Herr Otto Merkl was elected Director. He had previously spent many years in the United States and was an expert on shipping. Major Martin Wronsky, formerly associated with Hans Merkl in the management of the Aero-Lloyd, and Dr. Edward Misch of the Junkers Company were chosen as associate directors.

On April 8, 1930, the Deutsche Luft Hansa opened regular air transport service with 130 airplanes of various types over a system of scheduled air routes of 15,027 mi. Fifty different lines were in operation during the summer season, while during the winter of 1935-37 thirty lines covering 6,216 mi. were flown. In 1937, the Deutsche Luft Hansa has increased its mileage to 800,000 mi. and will fly to new cities 35,015 mi. every day on its multiple scheduled air lines. The



Weighing a passenger and goods before a Junkers plane Berlin.



Large Junkers airplane at Hamburg.

figures show that 85,000 passengers were carried by the company's planes in 1936, with a total flying mileage of 3,850,556.

Approximately 7,000 lb. of air mail were carried monthly on the national and international Luft Hansa lines. This did not include the large quantities of newspapers transported daily to special airplanes to different parts of Germany.

Eighteen European countries will be served daily during 1937 by the Luft Hansa lines. The Deutsche Luft Hansa seems about seventy airports within German boundaries, to which smaller local aerodromes in foreign countries can be added.

The airplane fleet in 1937 of the German Luft Hansa comprises 508 planes and a distance of 46,080 mi. is covered by them every day.

Eighty air transport lines are now in regular operation

in Germany. Of these lines, fifteen or more have direct connections with foreign air lines to such commercial centers as London, Amsterdam, Moscow, Paris, Brussels, Warsaw, Constantinople, Copenhagen and Stockholm.

The development of the international air freight movement has resulted in the creation of a uniform international air service by the International Air Traffic Association which functions in the various countries of Europe. A one inch of 44x30x28 in. has been established for air freight boxes. While individual planes may weigh up to 200 kg. and a total shipment may be 2,000 kg., it is required that volumes not be given whenever individual freight pieces in excess of 20 kg. or 44 lb. are to be tendered for shipment. Stations for receiving freight have been established in the business centers of cities served by air lines. No special package is required for air freight. Customs regulations are laxest at airbases.



The House at Düsseldorf at the gateway to the line division of Germany.

Tail Spins and Flat Spins

With Special Reference to Accidents Due to Non-Recovery From the latter

By H. V. KORVIN-KROUKOVSKIY

WITH FREE, rather than that airplane are quite rare. Accidents happen very seldom. We can mention several of the Air Staff, flying many miles without mishaps of any kind, and we have equally good records of passenger transport on a large number of flights. In response to the question of why accidents do happen, the answer is, of course, that they are caused by the negligence of the training for air control and formation flying. The time of negligence, unacceptable accidents seem to be rare.

Occasionally, however, there appears a series of accidents only partially explained, which confuse the engineers that there is still something left to be investigated, as well as a complete understanding. Recently there have been several accidents on different airplanes that ran recovery from a flat spin. The tail spin is a rather common occurrence, known for a long time, and not infrequently used as a tactical maneuver in a tactical maneuver. When carried out at a tactical altitude, it contains no danger of danger. In accidents at a low altitude, however, particularly immediately after take-off, but before the time of the end of the tail spin, there is a danger of a crash. There is a danger of a crash, but a rather serious variety of this maneuver, from which recovery was found very difficult, if not impossible. This variety became known under the name of "Flat Spin."

Study of Flat Spin Delays

The study of such a thing as the flat spin is a very difficult task because of the danger associated with experimenting with such accidents, and a very limited amount of experimental data is available. There exists a certain amount of data on tail spin, but this data is so small that it cannot be used for any calculations. It is natural, then, that private companies and airplanes develop such accidents, but they do not publish any data, but we are trying to get published. It is only from government reports and assumptions that a certain amount of data is available. The results of the investigation of accidents for the American and Soviet military aircraft. The Institute of Construction and Research Technical No. 164 gives the results of a number of experiments on a North American airplane, which in several cases refused to come out of a tail spin. In May 1955, a number of accidents were given on a number of two Army aircraft, which were also defined in this report. With this material on hand we will try to investigate the general properties of tail spins in general, and of flat spins in particular.

The normal tail spin is usually started by stalling the airplane, shutting off the engine, and pulling the control stick back and to one side. The rudder is also turned to the same side, as the control stick. The nose of the airplane is first allowed to rise up, the machine rolls to the side, in which the control stick is moved, turning counterclockwise in the same direction as the rolling and banking droops, the nose down. Very soon quite regular spiraling motion is established and the pilot feels as though he were falling down along the thread of a deep curve. This state, although rapid, spiral descent proceeds, but less in the spiral, but in the direction, described above. As soon as he begins the controls to neutral position, the airplane stops, and the machine is found to be in a vertical nose down. Then which it is made level and by the descent. The engine

of rotation and breaking out of this spiral a definite period of time, during which a certain altitude is lost. An accident before, the normal tail spin is dangerous only when the altitude needed for recovery is lacking.

The flat spin starts at the same time as a normal spin. As a matter of fact, it is a normal spin at the beginning. As it progresses, however, the speed of rotation increases and the nose of the machine rises up to a more horizontal position. When this state is reached, it is very difficult to bring the machine out. It may be interesting to cite here the description of a flat spin sent to us by Mr. N. B. Mironov of Spetsnaz, Wash., who found himself in a flat spin together with two passengers while trying out a sidestep while down commercial airplane. The airplane did not come out of a spin and was crashed, fortunately without injury to its occupants.

Mr. Mironov writes: "Having the good side attitude at 2000 ft., and during myself to see how the ship would act in a spin, I did a wing-over into a spin with power on, that is, the way back and under hand turn. Without any hesitation whatever the ship started spiraling. Feeling elated over the first evidence of maneuverability and having made two spins I decided to come out. The motor was throttled as soon as the ship started spiraling. Applying full opposite aileron, stick forward and away from the spin I moved the throttle wide open to get a quicker rate on the tail spin. To my surprise the ship kept right on spinning the



Fig. 1

now gradually working the way up. At first I did not mind, assuming it was merely one of those after recovery spins with which I had had previous experience. But before, the nose always came differently, instead of working its way up, it moved in the other direction. After several more turns with power full on, the fuselage became positively horizontal and the ship spinning faster and faster. Throttling the motor the nose seemed to drop slightly and the vertical motion ceased. At this time the ship settled into a steady rapid spin with the fuselage absolutely horizontal, the center of rotation being in the nose. The nose was down and the velocity of rotation was about 1000 RPM. I tried to right the ship with full throttle, leaving the motor full for about four turns but the only effect was more rapid spinning. Taking my hands off and off the controls entirely for several turns did not produce any effect. Once again I tried to right the ship but it was completely not enough enough to reach the full side to

the terrific whirling motion. Every combination of control was tried but without result. It was estimated by observers on the ground the ship made from 18 to 20 turns on its downward journey."

The basic cause of the tail spin is stall and rotation. Under rotation it knows the property of a lifting surface to spin about its fore-and-aft center line when subjected to the action of the wind at a large angle of incidence. When the lift coefficient of a wing is plotted against the angle of incidence, it is found that lift increases only to a certain limit. After reaching a certain angle known as the angle of maximum lift or stall point, the lift of the wing ceases to increase and actually begins to decrease, i.e., further increase of the angle of incidence causes decrease of the lift. As a consequence, an airplane stalled with its angle of incidence considerably larger than angle of maximum lift, say 35 deg. Let us imagine now that action of the controls makes this airplane roll to the left. If we consider a wing

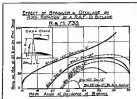


Fig. 2

two part of the wing near the tip, we will find that vertical velocity of this part, due to rolling, is added continuously to the horizontal velocity of the wind. In case of the left hand wing moving downwards, the resultant of these two velocities will be at a larger angle to the wing than the original wind velocity. I.e., the angle of incidence of the wing is increased. This immediately causes decrease of the lift on the left hand wing. In a similar way the right hand wing moving upwards is placed at a smaller angle of incidence, and its lift is found to be increased. Thus, we find decrease of the lift on the wing moving downwards and increase of it on the wing moving upwards. The position of each subsection of the lift fuselage evidently causes the wing to continue and even to accelerate its rolling in the same direction. The wing and the wind at an angle of incidence higher than the angle of maximum lift will rotate automatically if motion is started in either direction. For the more detailed analysis of the characteristics and of the tail spin the reader is referred to the article on "Stability and Control of Airplanes" in "Aviation" for May 4, 1956 and 28, 1956, pages No. 454, 455 and 461.

Definite Velocity of Accumulation

Both laboratory and actual flying experiments show that for each wing there is a definite velocity of accumulation. This velocity is directly proportional to the stall speed and inversely proportional to the span of the wing. It varies also with the angle of incidence. In laboratory reports the velocity of rotation is usually described by the number of rotations per second, while in actual flying it is given in revolutions per second. The relationship between possible only at a certain angle of incidence. As the angle of incidence is increased, the velocity of accumulation increases also up to a

certain maximum, after which it decreases and ceases altogether at a certain larger angle. Thus, the experiments on the model of Army training airplane results show that at an angle of 18 deg., reaches its maximum velocity of 20 deg., and ceases at 35 deg. At maximum velocity of accumulation the coefficient of lift is 1.0. The angle of incidence at which the accumulation is possible, and the maximum velocity of it are two factors of great importance in the study of a tail spin. We will now take that the so-called flat spin occurs only when the velocity of accumulation is extremely high.

Study Divided in Two Parts

The following study can be divided in two distinct parts: The first part deals with the stage and velocity of accumulation, affecting the speed and effects of accumulation; the second part deals with the impact of the accumulation process on the behavior and controllability of an airplane.

The laboratory experiments show that the stage and the velocity of accumulation are very difficult to control, particularly anything depends on such characteristics of the wing as span, chord ratio, shape, and so on.

Fig. 3 shows the results of the experiments on the model of model D. A. T. American airplane, which was found difficult to get out of a tail spin. It was found that with no power and gap to chord ratio of 0.8, the accumulation had a velocity of 100 RPM. It was found that the velocity of accumulation was also found to be very high. The model will rotate at 35 deg. angle of incidence the velocity of accumulation of this model was about twice that of the Army, and the velocity of rotation was about 200 RPM. At 18 deg., the accumulation ceased at about 35 deg. and its velocity although still rather high, had a definite maximum value. These experiments show that in case of an uncontrolled flat spin the velocity of accumulation increases, on the way it decreases.

The experiments on accumulation of the staggered type of R.A.F. 45 wing section, with gap to chord ratio of 0.8, show that the accumulation had a velocity of 100 RPM. The model will rotate at 35 deg. angle of incidence. Maximum speed of the accumulation was found to be 100 RPM. It was found that the accumulation was also found to be very high. The model will rotate at 35 deg. angle of incidence the velocity of accumulation of this model was about twice that of the Army, and the velocity of rotation was about 200 RPM. At 18 deg., the accumulation ceased at about 35 deg. and its velocity although still rather high, had a definite maximum value. These experiments show that in case of an uncontrolled flat spin the velocity of accumulation increases, on the way it decreases.

Braked Fighter Experiments

Designs are also found to have great effect on accumulation, particularly in case of positive stagger. As a rule the more the stagger and the angle of incidence, the more the velocity of accumulation of the lower wing. The accumulation was found possible even in case of the staggered braked, if the angle of incidence of the lower wing was 2 deg. larger than that of the upper wing.

On Fig. 3 we show the results of experiments on the model of British fighter with different rigging of the airframe. When the airframe was rigged in standard way, it was found that the accumulation had a velocity of 100 RPM. It was found that the accumulation was also found to be very high. The model will rotate at 35 deg. angle of incidence the velocity of accumulation of this model was about twice that of the Army, and the velocity of rotation was about 200 RPM. At 18 deg., the accumulation ceased at about 35 deg. and its velocity although still rather high, had a definite maximum value. These experiments show that in case of an uncontrolled flat spin the velocity of accumulation increases, on the way it decreases.

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